



THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY
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United States Agency for International Development

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United States Experts support Namibian Fire Fighters in Disaster Management

Windhoek --- The U.S. Forest Service through the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) launched a one-week Incident Command System training to the Windhoek Fire Department and representatives of relevant ministries in the Namibian capital, on 11 April 2016.

The event was attended by Windhoek mayor Muesee Kazapua, who thanked the United States government for its continued support to Namibia in the field of disaster management.

On behalf of U.S. Ambassador to Namibia Thomas Daughton, Regional Security Officer Jason Meixner highlighted the importance of a standardized, coordinated and professional approach in tackling disasters such as veld fires and floods, which occur regularly in Namibia..

"This training, the Incident Command System or ICS, will help save more Namibian lives through enhanced communications, planning and organizational management," Meixner said. He further emphasized that the likelihood of natural disasters is expected to increase with the effects of climate change in the region.

ICS was developed in the 1970s and has proven effective and economical to "bring order to chaos" during disaster and emergency response operations such as the recent wildfires around Cape Town and the September 11 terrorist attacks of 2001.

The U.S. government supports this capacity-building program for southern Africa with US\$1.5 million (N\$ 22 million) over a period of two years.

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Captions for attached 3 photographs

1444, 1446: More than 40 representatives of the Windhoek Fire Department and relevant Namibian ministries attended the launch of the disaster management training.

1487: The U.S. embassy's Regional Security Officer Jason Meixner and Windhoek mayor Muesee Kazapua addressed the workshop participants.

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